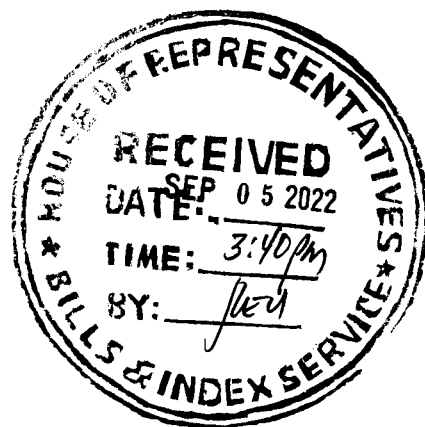




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 4433



Introduced by **HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There are an estimated 1.44 million individuals who have disabilities in the Philippines—this is according to the 2010 Census of Population and Housing.¹ The numbers indicated have not been updated for years thus the numbers may be higher now owing to the growing awareness on the myriad of disabilities that affect the Filipino population. There is also a risk that persons with disabilities face the added burden of accessing quality education.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities² and its Optional Protocol³ provided for the universal recognition of the right of persons with disabilities to education. In line with this, appropriating the necessary assistance to Persons with Disabilities is essential to promote and ensure that they have equal opportunity to a quality and inclusive education to reach their full potential and participate effectively in Philippine society.

Hence, approval of this bill is highly requested.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.
Assistant Majority Floor Leader
Congressman
First Congressional District of Manila

¹<https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/attachments/hsd/pressrelease/Disability%20by%20Age%20Group%20and%20Sex.pdf>

² <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/optional-protocol-to-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

³ <https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>



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HOUSE BILL No. 4433

Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)
AND THEIR CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “PWD Educational Assistance Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – The grant of the scholarship and educational financial assistance shall be guided by the following principles:

- (a) The State shall give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of disabled persons and their integration into Philippine society. Towards this end, the State shall adopt policies in ensuring the self-development of disabled persons and their children by providing them access to quality education.
- (b) It is the policy of the State to promote social justice and pursuant thereto, it must provide all its citizens access to quality education, including disabled persons and their children, so that they may be able to seek opportunities to participate as members of the Philippine society.

SECTION 3. Scholarship Grants. – Scholarship Grants to all PWDs and their children shall be provided under the supervision of the Department of Education (DEPED) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Grant-in-aid shall also be made available to PWDs and their children as a form of educational financial assistance.

SECTION 4. Appropriations. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriation from



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the DEPED and CHED. Such amount as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect on the fifteenth (15) day following its publication in at least two (2) national papers of general circulation.